

Message Text

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INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS

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TAGS:PFOR, NATO, CSCE, PARM

SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENTARIES ON MANEUVERS AND CONFIDENCE-
BUILDING MEASURES

REF: STATE 247047, USNATO 5708

1. IN REFERENCE TO YOUR REQUEST (REF B) FOR SANITIZED
VERSION OF INR REPORT (REF A) FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ALLIES,
FOLLOWING CHANGES SHOULD BE MADE:

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2. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR PARA 2(A): "THE SOVIET MEDIA

HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CRITICAL OF NATO MILITARY EXERCISES. THIS YEAR THERE HAS BEEN MORE WESTERN PUBLICITY OF THEM, AND THUS MORE OCCASIONS FOR THE SOVIET MEDIA TO REACT."

3. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR PARA 2 (E): "ANY VIOLATION BY THE SOVIETS OF THE PROMISE TO GIVE NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS OF MORE THAN 25,000 MEN WOULD BE CONSIDERED A SERIOUS MATTER BY ALL CSCE PARTIES. IN ANY CASE, IT MAY BE SOME TIME BEFORE THE SOVIETS ENGAGE IN MANEUVERS THAT WOULD TEST COMPLIANCE."

4. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR PARA 7: "REFERRING TO A LONDON NEWSPAPER STORY ABOUT THE NATO EXERCISE HILEX-7, AN ARTICLE IN RED STAR (AUGUST 8, 1975) CHARGED THAT THE TIMING OF '...THIS PROVOCATIVE PROPAGANDISTIC MILITARY SPECTACLE...MADE KNOWN IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE...' WAS HARDLY COINCIDENTAL. BUT IT MADE NO MENTION OF CBMS." FYI: RED STAR ARTICLE WAS EXPLICITLY ABOUT HILEX. TITLED "THE NATO SCENARIO," THE ARTICLE ATTACKED WESTERN "FABLES OF THE NOTORIOUS 'SOVIET THREAT' HANGING OVER WESTERN EUROPE." END FYI.

5. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR PARA 11: "A RED STAR ARTICLE ON AUGUST 30 ASKED: 'WHY WAS IT NECESSARY AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME TO SUDDENLY DEMONSTRATE THE NOTORIOUS 'ATLANTIC SOLIDARITY' AND TO INVOLVE NEARLY ALL (NATO) BLOC'S ARMED FORCES? NOW, AFTER THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION IN HELSINKI OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, MILITARIST ACTIVITIES CANNOT HELP BUT EVOKE THE BEWILDERMENT OF THE PEOPLES OF THE CONTINENT.'"

6. CORRECTION OF TYPO, PARA 19 (C): SEPTEMBER 20 SHOULD READ SEPTEMBER 15.

7. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR PARA 20: "NO WARSAW PACT MEMBER HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO A NATO EXERCISE OR ANNOUNCED ONE OF ITS OWN. YUGOSLAVIA IS THE ONLY COMMUNIST COUNTRY THAT HAS ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO CERTAIN TREK AND ANNOUNCED AN EXERCISE OF ITS OWN."

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8. IF MISSION FEELS PARA 21 MIGHT CAUSE ARGUMENT WITH WEST GERMANS, IT MAY DELETE THAT PARA.

9. SUBSTITUTE FOLLOWING FOR PARA 22: "ANY VIOLATION OF THE PROMISE TO GIVE NOTIFICATION OF MANEUVERS OF MORE THAN 25,000 MEN WOULD BE CONSIDERED A SERIOUS MATTER BY ALL CSCE PARTIES. ALTHOUGH PRECISE ESTIMATES ABOUT THE SIZE OF

WARSAW PACT MANEUVERS ARE DIFFICULT TO ARRIVE AT, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A TREND IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS TOWARD SMALLER MANEUVERS. A MANEUVER IN WHICH THE COMBAT ELEMENTS OF TWO DIVISIONS OPPOSE EACH OTHER WOULD BE WELL BELOW THAT FIGURE. WHILE THE SOVIETS ARE CAPABLE OF HOLDING LARGER MANEUVERS VIRTUALLY ANY TIME OF THE YEAR, INCLUDING WINTER, IT MAY NEVERTHELESS BE SOME TIME BEFORE THERE IS A SOVIET OR PACT EXERCISE WHICH MEETS THE 25,000-MAN CRITERION AND PUTS EASTERN COMPLIANCE TO AN ACTUAL TEST."

10. ALL CSCE CAPITALS AND APPROPRIATE MILITARY ADDRESSES HAVE BEEN SENT COPIES OF INR REPORT BY POUCH. KISSINGER

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